

**Legal Notice: Opportunity to Comment**  
***Chicken Creek Trails Project***  
**Draft Environmental Assessment**  
**United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service**  
**San Juan National Forest, Dolores Ranger District**  
**Montezuma County, Colorado**

The Dolores Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest requests your input on the proposed Chicken Creek Trails Project draft Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposed project consists of motorized and non-motorized trail additions to the existing network of trails on U.S. Forest Service lands. The motorized trails proposal would allow motorcycles on two existing trails (1 mile in length, total) in the Owens Basin area to provide connection between other existing motorized trails. The non-motorized proposal includes approximately 10 miles of new trails and designation of 2 miles of existing trails, all near the Chicken Creek Nordic trail system area.

**How to Comment and Timeframe**

The Draft EA and other supporting documents are available online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55794>. The Draft EA provides more details on the proposed project and also provides a summary of the potential effects the project could have on various resources.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting, Tom Rice, Recreation Program Manager:

(970) 882-7296, [thomasbrice@fs.fed.us](mailto:thomasbrice@fs.fed.us)

Dolores Ranger District Office, 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO 81321

The Forest Service is combining scoping with the legal notice and opportunity to comment, consistent with 36 CFR 218.24. This legal notice also serves to notify and invite public comment on the proposal as stipulated in §800.3 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The public is encouraged to provide specific written comments (§218.2) on this proposal for the responsible official to consider. The District Ranger for the Dolores Ranger District, as the responsible official, will consider the project and decide whether or not to approve implementation. Specific written comments should have a direct relationship to the proposed project.

Written comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice in *The Cortez Journal*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

The *Chicken Creek Trails Project* would implement the San Juan Forest's existing Land and Resource Management Plan and would be subject to the objection process pursuant to §218 Subparts A and B. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments will have eligibility to file an objection under §218.8. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunity. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in §218.25(a)(3), including that each individual or representative from each entity submitting written comments must provide the name and postal

address of the individual or entity submitting the comment, and either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Names, contact information, and comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

The 30-day comment period will begin on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Electronic comments can be submitted through the electronic comment form located on the project webpage. Written comments must be postmarked by the US Postal Service or submitted via fax (970-882-6841), electronically, or in person to the Dolores Ranger District Office (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) by the end of the comment period. Please address written comments to: Dolores Ranger District, Attention: Chicken Creek Trails Project, 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO 81323.

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